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On Other Pages

Christian Comment Welcomes Ceylon Election Result	2
Theologians' Peace Meeting Spans Iron Curtain	3
Trevor Huddleston to Be Tanganyika Bishop	4
Dr. Lund-Quist Resigns LWF Post	4
Lumumba Praises Missions	5
In Brief	5

Australian Churchmen For Controlled Asian Immigration

(Sydney) - Two Australian church leaders have called for an end to Australia's bar on Asian immigration.

The Rev. B.R. Wyllie and the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins, executive chairman and general secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, criticise Australia's Immigration Minister Errol Downer for the tone of a speech in which he predicted lessening ties with Britain and a bigger intake of continental European immigrants.

They say these new trends are really a consolidation of British values and "evidences of Australia's maturity as a nation, which changes her relation with Britain from one of national adolescence to equal partnership" in the Commonwealth.

"The most important feature of the British Commonwealth in the world today", they claim, "is neither its British origin nor the practical benefits which accrue to its members, but the fact that it is a multi-racial international community which has grown out of the British way of life".

The two churchmen, who speak for the Australian Council, say that "Mr. Downer in his defensive traditionalism obviously has not realized it yet. He is on the defensive about European immigration, but says it must be", they continue. "He is even more on the defensive about Asian immigration, but says it must not be. He fears that the goal of friendship with Asian countries will be defeated by the tensions which would follow an inflow of Asian immigrants. He does not mention that Australia is losing that friendship week by week because of the inferiority which Asians understand Australia's immigration policy infers about them. It might as well be known that although this Asian resentment has been less evident in church circles in Asia hitherto, it is now becoming a matter of difficulty in relationships between Asian and Australian churches also."

The church spokesmen deny that they want "an uncontrolled inflow of Asian immigrants leading to 'East-West pot-pourri' as Mr. Downer calls it". They also reject the idea of a restricted one-way quota system of intake.

"What we have asked for", their statement goes on, "is a declaration by the Australian government that there is no 'White Australia Policy' in its immigration policy and an indication that it is ready to negotiate with Asian governments for reciprocal bilateral agreements for the restricted inflow of Asians into Australia and Australians into Asian countries. The Australian Council of Churches suggested to the Australian government last year that the upper limit for such agreements could be 100 per country per annum. This is enough to erase any race or colour bar in our policy and to win the friendship of Asian peoples."

(Australian immigration laws do not discriminate in writing on grounds of skin colour, but have been administratively applied so as to exclude Asians from permanent residence and citizenship. In recent years numbers of Asians have been admitted as students and temporary residents, but not as immigrants.)
EPS, Geneva

Christian Comment Welcomes Ceylon Election Result

(Colombo) - An outspoken Christian comment in the monthly Christian News Bulletin issued by the Study Department of the National Christian Council in Ceylon calls the return to power of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike "a good thing".

The front-page editorial, which does not commit the churches officially, says that "the political understanding of the people in this country has brought about an effective two-party form of government with clearly distinguished policies. There is hardly any other country in Asia, or indeed in most parts of the world, where a party which has become unpopular can be peacefully dismissed by the vote of the people and an alternative party placed in power."

The comment also says "the good sense of the electorate has effectively dismissed the extremist, both the communist and the realist, and has effectively shown its contempt for the independent who hoped to get into parliament on his personal charm and then sell his soul, if any, to the party in power."

Mrs. Bandaranaike's party is hailed as "committed to the interests of the common man".

Turning critically to the failure of the churches to take a clear stand on the question of state aid to church schools, the News Bulletin adds: "It may also prove to be a good thing to have a government which will settle the old controversy about Christian schools by direct and unilateral action, since the churches seem incapable of settling it by discussion."

According to the News Bulletin it might do the churches good to have a government that is not sympathetic to them. "Much of the Ceylon Church's weakness today can be traced", it says, "to its dependence on the favour of a well-disposed colonial regime. The favour of a well-disposed government today can be equally enervating. Whenever the Church finds itself protected by government from popular criticism, and whenever the Church is granted, or has preserved to it, privileges which are resented by the nation as a whole, its mission is stultified and its own life is in the gravest peril."

The editorial also calls on the new government to combat racial propaganda against the Tamil-speaking minority in Ceylon and asks for action to give Tamils an effective voice in the way they are governed. "In this the Christian community has a decisive role to play", the News Bulletin says, "because it alone has unbreakable bonds of friendship across the racial divisions within our country."

EPS, Geneva

YMCA World Youth Conference Meets in Netherlands

(Hilversum, Netherlands) - The Negro spiritual "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand" is the theme of a YMCA World Youth Conference being held at Hilversum, August 3-13. The 800 participants come from some 50 countries in all continents and include a contingent of 100 girls who are in touch with YMCA work.

Dr. Paul M. Limbert, general secretary of the World Alliance of YMCAs, told the opening session that Christians knew from the "vivid language of the Bible" that the hand of God is "at work today both to build up man in his weakness and to cast him down in his pride".

"You will leave this conference ready to take off on one great adventure after another", he said, "confident that on land or sea or in the air you are 'in His hand'. Many questions will remain, but the one big question of the meaning of your life will be answered."

The ten-day programme includes morning Bible study, sports and cultural activities, excursions to Amsterdam and the "Zuiderzee" and addresses by Nobel Peace Prize winner Father Georges Pire of Belgium and by Charles D. Sherman, president of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Emphasis in the world conference is on leadership training, discussion and activity rather than set speeches. Protestants, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and non-Christians are participating. French delegates have worked their way to the Netherlands on a banana boat from Le Havre. National costumes are being featured. Belgians have brought a jazz group, Scotland a team of bagpipers and Germany a brass band.

EPS, Geneva

Theologians' Peace Meeting Spans Iron Curtain

(Bièvres, France) - Theologians from churches on both sides of the iron curtain and from the USA met August 2-7 at the conference centre of La Roche-Dieu to discuss "The Lordship of Christ and the Idea of the State, with Special Reference to Totalitarianism".

Third in a series of meetings since 1955 called by the "historic peace churches", it was attended by a group of American Mennonites, Quakers and Presbyterians and by East European theologians Joseph Hromadka of Prague and Leo Parijskij of Leningrad. Another participant was Lutheran Archbishop Jan Kiivit of Esthonia.

Participants said after the meeting that "the encounter between Eastern and Western countries has been very helpful for closer understanding, particularly between the American delegates and those from behind the iron curtain".

Among Americans attending was veteran Christian pacifist A.G. Muste of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Sessions were led by Oberkirchenrat Heinz Kloppenburg of Dortmund, Germany.

The historic peace churches, including Quakers, Mennonites and America's Church of the Brethren, are opposed to all participation in war. EPS, Geneva

Trevor Huddleston to be Tanganyika Bishop

(London) - Father Trevor Huddleston, Anglican foe of apartheid, has been nominated as Bishop of Masasi, Tanganyika, within the new province of East Africa inaugurated on August 3 by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It is expected that Father Huddleston, noted for his work with the Community of the Resurrection in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, will be consecrated in Masasi Cathedral on October 8, if his election is confirmed by the other dioceses of the province.

Masasi diocese has over 30,000 Anglicans, of whom 500 are whites. There are 13 white and 40 African priests.

Father Huddleston, whose book on South Africa Naught for Your Comfort strongly attacked segregation and discrimination, has served the Community of the Resurrection as Master of the Novices in Mirfield, Yorkshire, and as Prior of its London house since returning from South Africa in 1955. EPS, Geneva

Egypt Cuts Land Holdings of Copts

(Cairo) - The Egyptian government has reduced permissible land holdings of Coptic monasteries and churches to 200 feddan (200 acres) of arable and the same area of non-arable for any one local institution.

Compensation will be fixed by the state's land reform commission on terms agreed with Patriarch Cyril, the head of the church.


Coptic church lands have grown recently as the result of many legacies. The church has accepted the government's solution and says it will solve problems that would have arisen about the best use of the land if it had stayed in church hands. EPS, Geneva

Dr. Lund-Quist Resigns LWF Post

(Geneva) - Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist has resigned as executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation.

He returned recently to his office in Geneva after five months of health leave and treatment in the United States following repeated attacks of high blood pressure.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, LWF president, emphasized that Dr. Lund-Quist had not suffered a recurrence of his illness and that the resignation was due to his belief that the secretaryship should be carried by "a man who is not impeded by restricted vitality or physical handicap of any sort".



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Dr. Lund-Quist, who is 51, expects to take up other work later. LWF assistant executive secretary Kurt Schmidt-Clausen of Germany will be acting executive secretary until the LWF executive meets, probably in June 1961.

A pastor of the Augustana Lutheran Church in the USA, Dr. Lund-Quist has been LWF executive secretary since 1952. EPS, Geneva

Most American Protestants Remain in Congo, NCC Official Says

(New York) - Although many Protestant missionaries in the Congo have been evacuated, especially from the Kasai province, most of the 1,200 American Protestants are staying at their posts, according to the Rev. Theodore L. Tucker, executive secretary of the Africa Committee of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Executives of the major denominational missions in the Congo are reported to believe that most personnel, who did leave the Congo for Rhodesia and other near-by areas, will be able to return to their posts as soon as the new government is stable.

At the same time, leaders have expressed their optimism about the future of the Congo. Bishop Newell S. Booth, head of Methodist work in the country, said that there has been "a sustained growth of leadership among the Congolese Christians" and that although "the present events have upset the relations of the Congolese with the Europeans, they will make them aware of the need for co-operation".

Protestant missionaries, with Presbyterians and Baptists among the largest groups, numbered 2,608 at the end of last year. Assisted by 600 ordained Congolese pastors, they ministered to 821,025 adult members. Another 345,473 persons were reported to be under instruction for baptism. Roman Catholic missionaries in the Congo number about 2,800 priests and 3,700 nuns. Four hundred of the priests are Congolese. EPS, Geneva

Lumumba Praises Missions

(Quebec) - Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba of the Congo Republic has praised missionaries for their contributions to the "moral and intellectual upbringing" of the Congolese people.

Interviewed during a visit to Canada, the Prime Minister said: "We want the missionaries to remain. For years it was only the missions which looked after the Congolese. We ask them to continue their help."

"We can tell you in all sincerity", he added, "that order will be restored in the Congo, and that nobody will be given cause for anxiety." EPS, Geneva

In Brief

An international archive of religious films is being established by the ecumenical "Film Centre" at Hilversum in the Netherlands, in co-operation with the Netherlands Museum of Cinematography. An attempt to obtain specimens of religious films from many countries is being made by the Film Service of the Centre with the co-operation of Interfilm, an international grouping of agencies engaged in producing and distributing Christian films.

Catholicos Vazken I, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church with headquarters in Etchmiadzin, Georgia, USSR, is visiting Armenian communities in Argentina after an extensive tour in the United States.

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The International Missionary Council's Theological Education Fund has announced a grant of \$100,000 for a Union Faculty of Theology at Elisabethville, Congo. The complete project is expected to cost \$300,000. Major British, Belgian and American missionary societies are among the sponsors. An IMC spokesman said the grant was meant as "an affirmation of faith in the future of the Congo and of the Church in the Congo".

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The 14th World's Christian Endeavour will meet in Sydney, Australia, August 16-21, 1962. Ten thousand delegates are expected from the CE World's Union, with some 3,000,000 members in 80 denominations and more than 50 countries. The last world convention was at Frankfurt, Germany, in 1958.

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[REDACTED] International conference of the International Hebrew Christian [REDACTED] denominational fellowship of converted Jews, will meet at [REDACTED] August 24-27. The Alliance's last meeting was held in Chicago in September 1955.

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US Methodists contributed a total of \$396,543 in the denomination's 1960 Race Relations Day offering, an annual effort to aid the 12 Negro colleges related to the Methodist Church.

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Former US president Herbert Hoover will serve as national chairman of the 20th annual National Bible Week, October 17-23, sponsored by the Laymen's National Committee, Inc. Theme for the week is "The Bible - Strength of Our Nation". The Committee, founded in 1940, has no official church affiliation.

EPS, Geneva

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Correction

Findings on the question of communion, approved in a 3,500 word statement at the close of last month's European Ecumenical Youth Assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland (see EPS No. 29), were incorrectly quoted. They should have read:

"We shall not cease to demand of our denominations, of the neighbouring denominations, and of the World Council of Churches: Work seriously towards the establishment of an increasingly inclusive intercommunion. Do not come to a standstill on this most urgent task. We hope and pray that before we come together again in an ecumenical youth conference, enough progress will have been made on this point. We know that there are no easy solutions here. There is no unity at the expense of truth. But there is also no obedience to the truth which does not compel us to recover unity."

